

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Occupancy Rate of Jails
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and name of jails in the country where the occupancy rate is more than 200 per cent;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to urgently reduce overcrowding in these jails and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the average space in square metre available to an inmate inside prisons, both sanctioned and actual;
- (d) whether the allocation of funds to the States for modernization of prisons has been stopped and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to allocate funds for this purpose in the near future and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

--2â€"

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARA (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *303 FOR 8TH AUGUST 2017.

As per the National Crime Records Bureau, out of 1401 Jails in the country, 149 jails have an overcrowding rate of more than 200% as on 31.12.2015. The details of such jails is at Annex.

In the Model Prison Manual 2016, the minimum accommodation space per prisoner in Sleeping Barracks suggested is 3.71 Sq. mtrs and 8.92 Sq. mtrs of ground area in Cells. No Central statistics are available on the actual space available to a prison inmate in different jails.

Prisons is a State subject. However, a Central scheme for modernization of prisons, with a financial outlay of Rs. 1800 crores, was launched in 2002. Under this scheme, 125 new jails were constructed and 1579 barracks were added to existing prisons. The scheme came to an end on 31.3.2009.

An advisory covering various measures to address the issue of overcrowding was also sent to all States and UTs on May 9, 2011 for their guidance. This was followed by advisories dated 17.1.2013 and 27.9.2014, and recent letter sent in March this year. These advisories are available on MHA's website.

--3--

L.S.S.Q.NO.*303 FOR 08.08.2017

Further, with a view to addressing the problem of overcrowding in prisons, the Government of India has introduced the concept of plea bargaining through Section 265 of Cr PC and by insertion of a new Section viz. 436-A in Cr PC on the maximum period for which an under trial prisoner can be detained.
